

LAMORINDA Business

business briefs

Lavande Spa Cuts a Ribbon, 3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd Lafayette, 299-8877
The Mercantile's new spa will hold its Ribbon Cutting - Thursday, January 10 - 4:00pm.

Floyd Leaves Lafayette

Tim Floyd, Senior Loan Consultant, Wamu Home Loans
1390 S Main St. 2nd Floor, Walnut Creek - 256-4828

Mr. Floyd has moved his office from Lafayette to Walnut Creek. He is currently ranked as the #1 loan consultant for Wamu in Contra Costa County and specializes in purchases, refinances and home equity loans for both owner occupied and investor loan clients. He can be reached by telephone at (925)256-4828.

Ægis of Moraga Celebrates 8 Years

950 Country Club Dr. Moraga - 377-7929 - www.aegisliving.com

In December 1999, Ægis of Moraga opened its doors for the first time. Sixty three luxurious assisted living studios and one-bedroom apartments were being offered, along with fourteen private studio apartments for residents living with Alzheimer's and dementia in ÆgisLiving's nationally recognized Life's Neighborhood program.

Since that day we have celebrated many anniversaries and birthdays. We've planned many fun and memorable events for our residents such as Hawaiian Luau's and BBQs, Antique Care Shows, Holiday celebrations, Happy Hours and so much more. We have a wonderful staff that comes each day to share in the lives of those they care for and Ægis of Moraga truly strives to make our resident's lives better.

As a company, AegisLiving is celebrating 10 years as a national leader in independent and assisted living with a premier Alzheimer's and dementia care program and now operates 32 communities in three states.



Car show and dance at Ægis of Moraga

New Face at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 85 Moraga Way Orinda - 253-6339

The Orinda brokerage firm is pleased to welcome Soraya Golesorkhi as its newest sales associate. In her new position, Golesorkhi will specialize in residential sales in Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Golesorkhi worked in marketing and operations at Premier Retail Networks, and subsequently with Oakhurst Properties as a new home sales associate.

Parking and Transportation Options for Lafayette Employees and Employers:

Last fall the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce conducted a parking survey to determine the need for parking in the downtown area. The results have been computed and the Chamber and the City have prepared a document presenting practical information to help move cars out of the parking spaces that should be available to shoppers and visitors in the downtown area. Starting on January 17th, an army of Chamber volunteers will be visiting every business in Lafayette to distribute copies of the new brochure.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce:

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, www.lafayettechamber.org

- Wednesday January 16th, 12 noon at the Chamber office, launch of the GREEN committee. The objective of the new initiative is to promote environmental business practices in Lafayette. Such practices include waste reduction, recycling, energy and water conservation, alternative transportation and much more. The meeting will be hosted by staff and representatives from Sustainable Lafayette, a citizen-based organization promoting sustainable living and business practices. If you can't attend and want to learn more, contact Bart Carr at bart@ebassociates.com
- Friday, January 18 - 8:00am Coffee with the Mayor, Chamber Office
- Friday, January 25, 6:00pm at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. Annual membership meeting with introduction of the 2008 Board of Directors. Mayor Mike Anderson will give the "State of the City Address." Music will be provided by Generations in Jazz. Reservations required, form on the Chamber's web site.

Chamber of Commerce of Moraga, www.moragachamber.org

- Friday January 25th, 8:00 am to 9:30 am. Monthly meeting at Terzetto 1419 Moraga Way in the Moraga Center.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda, www.orindachamber.org:

- Thursday January 24th, 8:00am to 9:15am. Breakfast Meeting at Shelby's Restaurant - 2 Theater Square in Orinda. Meeting is open to the public, the cost is \$10.00 per person.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact

Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
or contact
Lamorinda Weekly at 925-377-0977.

Exploring the Mercantile

By Sophie Braccini

Construction never goes as fast as one might hope. The Lafayette Mercantile on Mount Diablo Boulevard is no exception, but the few stores already open are making a difference. Your intrepid reporter went exploring two of the new stores, JoS A Bank and Lavande.

"It's nice to have a quality men's store in Lafayette," says Michael Schneider, a satisfied Lafayette resident. "This place is nice, friendly and they offer good quality apparel at a reasonable price." He adds, "It's refreshing to be able to shop locally." The store opens to both Mt. Diablo Blvd. and the back parking lot and is full of light. It offers a beautiful selection of silk, lamb's wool, and cashmere outfits for all occasions and ages. The tie selection is extensive and the warm coats befit the season. I couldn't resist buying a gift for my husband; when he received his new silk sweater he was happily surprised. "Since when do we have a Jos A Bank here?" he asked. "Well, just read your newspaper and you'll find out everything about new businesses around town," I answered.

The next stop was quite a treat: a "mother-daughter" manicure/pedicure package at Lavande, the new spa. Jennifer Leung and her husband have opened their 4th store. The first one was an immediate success in San Francisco. Leung attributes the success to her concept of manicure and pedicure: a whole spa experience complete with massage, exfoliation and pampering. When I arrived with my daughter, we were invited to sit in adjacent pedicure chairs, our foot baths were ready, warm with rose petals, rose scent in the atmosphere. In fact "rose" was the theme of our treatment, everything smelled of roses but the chocolates we were offered, along with relaxing tea.



Jennifer Leung in the lounge of Lavande's Spa Photo Sophie Braccini

The salon is full of light and decorated in soft colors, hues of yellow, green and brown warmed by an occasional touch of orange. Treatment is executed very professionally with the extra smile and soft touch that made me feel at home in Provence. "I love to travel and I enjoy the south of France," says Leung. "I want my clients to get that extra spa treatment and touch of luxury when they come for a manicure/pedicure, without having to pay a fortune." When asked why she decided to choose Lafayette as her East Bay location, Leung explains that it was in fact Steve Cortese, the Mercantile's developer, who visited her and convinced her to join the site.

Once our treatment was over, we were given a tour of the spa. Entering that side of Lavande is like stepping onto another continent. "The spa is of Asian inspiration", says Leung, "materials, design and colors have all been assembled to promote relaxation and peacefulness." The first space found upon entering is a large relaxing lounge with chairs and a Jacuzzi. The women's locker offers a steam room and a sauna. The spa comprises different massage rooms: a special one for couple's treatment including a bathtub, an other one with a particular bed for wet treatment, rooms for facials or the different types of massages that the Spa offers: deep tissue, hot stone. Orinda's Cheryl Brewster was having a pedicure at the spa and commented "I came back here today after the massage I had yesterday. I must have pulled a muscle in my back and was in pain; I came here and had such a great experience that I had to come back."

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